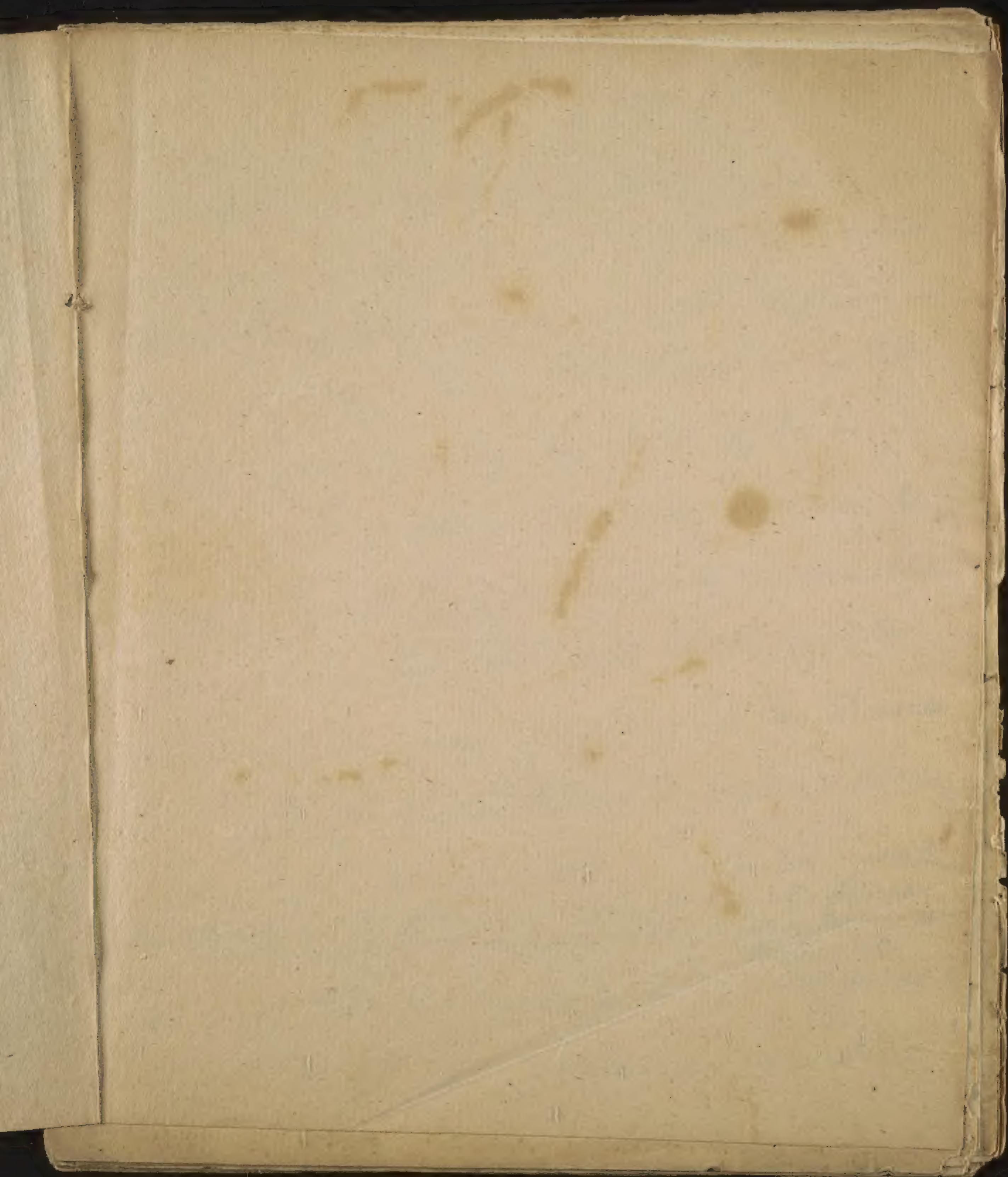
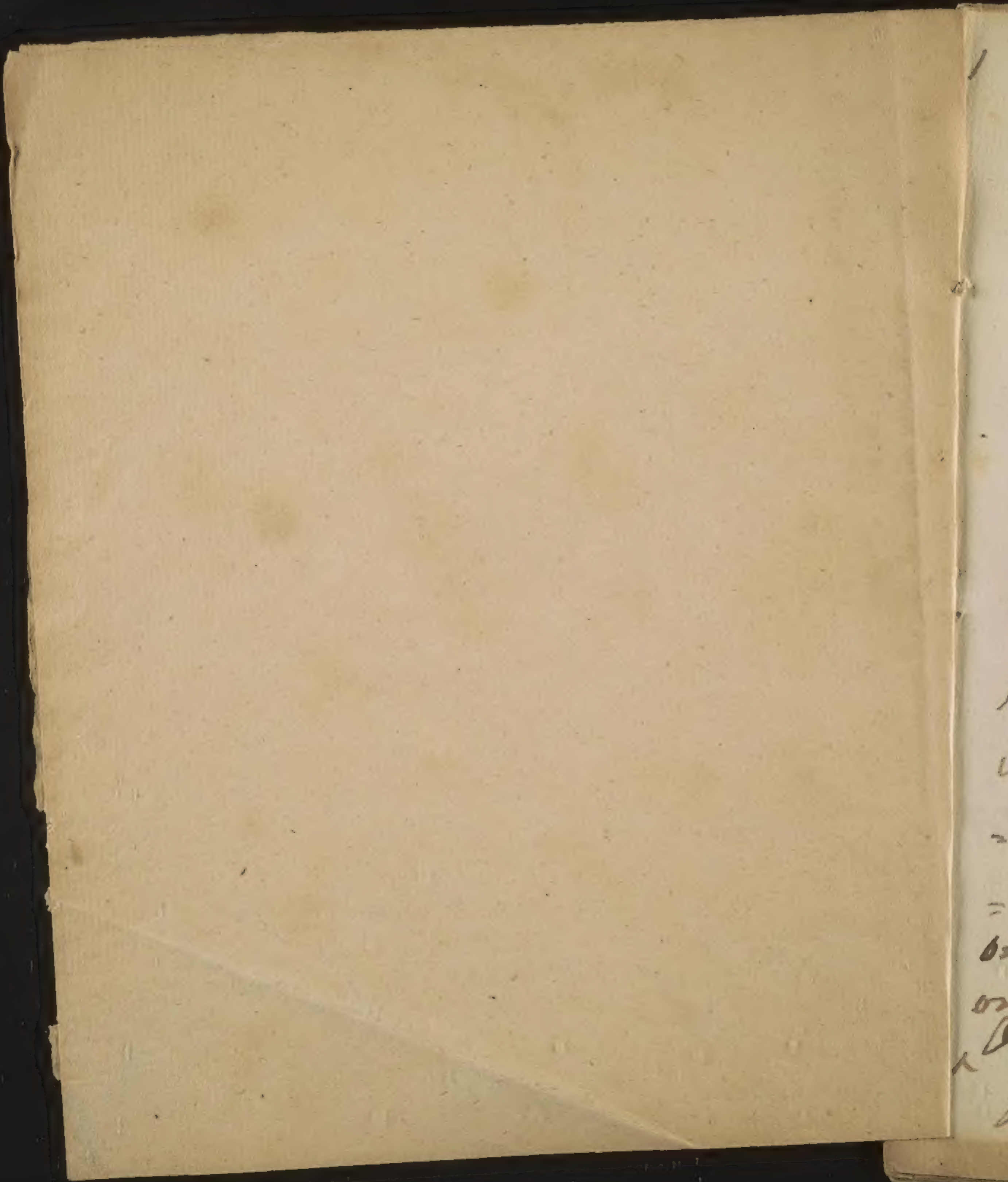


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Letter from Prisons.







of the fever from Poisons.

I said formerly poisons were animal
mineral - Aerial and vegetable, and
that they acted upon all the systems
specifically. Even the blood is acted
upon specifically by one of them.

Most of them induce disease &
death by acting primarily upon the
Stomach, bowels and blood vessels
in a manner analogous to Hoins.
aria ^{and} in a direct & indirect man-

ner. The disease thus induced is either
one of the forms of intestinal fever,
~~The Remedy proper to this disease~~

or ^{arterial} one of the primary forms of fever.
for which the following remedies

V ~~under~~ exciting another action
in the stomach, or in some
other part of the body.

have been found useful.

I such as discharge the poisonous matter from the stomach when it is confined to it, or destroy its activity ~~by~~ ^{blunting} ~~raising~~ ~~with it~~, or decomposing it, ^{which} render it inert by V

II such as discharge the poisonous matter from the bowels, ~~and~~

III such as obviate the disease induced in the blood vessels.

To the I I had belong Emetics. These should ^{be} exactly the same as have recommended for discharging landa-
-rum for the stomach in the lecture upon the fever induced by Opium. If this be ~~is~~ impracticable, ~~each~~ 2?

2 Such ³ should be employed as
2 ~~The remedies~~ ~~which are intended~~
Destroy the activity of the poison
by blunting or decomposing it. These
should be regulated by the nature of the
poisonous ^{matters} ~~matter~~. If they be of a
saline or soluble ^{nature} ~~water~~, dilution with
large quantities of water, or ~~the~~
one or two draughts of milk, or
Sweet Oil, or melted butter will be
proper. Certain poisons may be de-
composed, and thus rendered inert in
the stomach. For example - if con-
-cine sublimite has been swallowed,
a little Vegetable Alkali will detach
the mercurial acid from the mercury

[Faint, illegible handwriting, likely bleed-through from the reverse side of the page.]

[Partial view of handwritten text from the adjacent page on the right.]

the mercury in 4 ^{State}
and have an offensive ~~bragg~~ of
~~mercury~~ in the stomach. Sulp has
has been advised to destroy in bile
incur the activity of arsenic, but
I doubt much whether a Union can
take place between them to so form an
experiment in the stomach. If the
poison resist these remedies, a new
active should be excited in the sto-
-mach by means of Landanum or
ardent spirits, - or in the bowels
by acid Glysters, or upon the
skin by blisters - or mustard, or
Spirit of Turpentine, or by means
of flagellation.

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11 If the poison should pass thro' the
 stomach, and produce pain and
 inflammation in the bowels, the
 Remedies should be large quantities
 of milk, sweet oil; or melted ^{butter} ~~butter~~
 taken by the mouth and injected in
 the way of Apsyter. While I was
 a student of medicine I assisted in the
 recovery of a respectable Citizen of
 Philad^a who had taken an ounce of
 the Sulphate of Zinc instead of an
 ounce of purging salts by means of
 these two of those remedies. [The
 injections which were often repeated,
 were given by my hands] I have



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Dr Robert from me of the Island of Do-
-mission informed me, that he had
prevented death by the same means
in a man who had drunk a pint
of Whisky made with half an ounce of
arsenic which he obtained by mis-
-take from an Apothecary, instead of
half an ounce of Cassia Bastard.

In all cases of violent pain from
~~the action of poisons~~
the action of poisons in the stomach
or bowels, bleeding will be useful.
It will ~~will~~ prevent inflammation.
- It will abstract morbid excitement
from the stomach and bowels, and
it will enable the system longer

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And with more safety, to sustain the
outrage that has been committed upon
it by the poison.

I have said the effects of poisons
appear in the blood vessels in all the
usual forms of ~~potent~~ fever. The
poison acts indirectly in the inducing
fever, but it sometimes acts directly
by being introduced into the blood ves-
sels by means of a wound. Before
we proceed to mention the remedies for
the cure of the fever induced by the
poison, it will be proper to inquire
into the means of preventing this
fever by the abstraction of the
poison before it mixes with the

✓ They escape the morbid effects of the
poison upon the whole System.

4 Lotion, 5 Suction and 6 Exercise
are all proper according to the nature
of the poison and the seat of the wound.

See 1 - next to vaccination

8
blood. The remedies employed for this
purpose are 1 a ligature above the wound
to stop the bleeding by pressing upon the veins, preventing
the poison being suddenly mixed with
the whole mass of blood. 2 Applying
~~bruis~~ ~~ing~~ ~~the~~ stimulating substance to
the wound so as to excite an inflammation
in it, and a discharge of the poison
from it. The Indians use bruis-
ing for this purpose.
A blister or a weak cantharide would
be much better. 3 burying the
wounded limb in fresh earth, or
applying fresh earth to the wound.
^{I said formerly}
Dogs when bitten by snakes scratch
a hole in the ground, and place the
wounded part in it by which means
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and with more safety, to ascertain
the outcome that has been com-
mitted upon it by the poison.

III The remedies which are proper
to remove the effects of poisons when
they appear in the blood vessels. These
should be the same as for fever
from any other cause. If the
pulse be active or depressed, bleeding
should be employed, and afterwards
purgers and heating medicine. The
last have been generally resorted to,
probably from a belief that the poison
was thus to be expelled only thro'
the pores. ~~This was~~ The Lanca, &c

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Sarsaparilla also the Volatile Alkali
 have been employed for this pur-
 pose. It is not in this manner we
 attempt to expel the miasmata
 which produce bilious & jaund fevers
 from the blood. The attempt would
 be equally fruitless ^{to} ~~in~~ discharging
 any other poison from the body in
 the same way. After bleeding & purging
 sweating will be useful especially if
 nature shows a disposition to it. It
 will act as it does in ^{bilious} fevers by the
 Abstraction of ~~quantity~~ ^{the stimulus}
 of quantity, and thus ^{upon} ~~forming~~ the
 stimulus of quality.
 When the blood vessels are affected



with a feeble morbid action, the Re-
 medies should be of cordials and
 stimulating nature. The Caustic Vol.
 Alkali has been used with great
 success in France, and lately in the
 East Indies in the low fever induced
 by the bite of the Cobra de Capello.
 In this fever the blood vessels are
 nearly paralyzed by the poison, so
 that nothing can keep up this ac-
 tion except the most prompt and
 active Stimuli of which the Caustic
 Vol. Alkali is perhaps the best in
 the whole Materia Medica.
 With all these remedies, blisters

V Doyrony has mentioned a fact which
shows that a strong irritation made
upon the stomach ^{may serve the same purpose,} ~~when poisons have~~
mixed with the blood, that a strong
irritation made upon the skin does.
When a poison is lodged in the sto-
mach or bowels. He tells us the
Indians in North America want
death from the bite of poisonous
snakes by swallowing large quantities
of Cayenne pepper. The efficacy of
large doses of Bark, Wine & Laudanum
in certain states of malignant fever,
(which act ~~in the~~ ^{powerfully} upon
the stomach) in saving the system from
disorganisations and death by miasmata
(which are aerial poisons) favours the
reasonableness of this Indian practice.

and other stimulants applied to the
 skin might be used to advantage.

✓ The more we divest ourselves of a
 belief that ~~the power~~ for the prejudices
 of the schools upon the specific nature
 of poisons in inducing ^{fevers} ~~fevers~~, and
 in favor of specific remedies ^{and} for its cure,
 the more we subject that ~~cause~~ ^{all}
 to the laws which regulate other
 fevers, and the remedies that cure
 them, the more easily and safely
 we shall arrive at a certain and
 successful mode of treating them.

I have hitherto spoken only
 of the common forms of fevers pro-
 duced by poisons, but they sometimes



produce the erysipe ~~and~~ the hemorrhagic
 the mariscal, the dysenteries, and the
 hydropic states of fever all of which
 require exactly the same treatment
 which I shall recommend hereafter
 for those states of fever. The Hydropic
 state of fever is ^{induced by the bite of an insect called Dipomy} ~~described by an ancient~~
~~poet.~~ It is attended with a great swelling
 and thirst. It is described by one of the
 ancient poets.

We are told by travellers that the
 saracens of many countries prevent the
 morbid effects of poisons upon them
 by certain medicines of a vegetable
 nature. Baron Humbolt informed me
 that the Indians in South America ^{drink a decoction}
 employ certain herbs for this purpose,

V poison of the Mosquito, the Spider
and the Cashew nut of Barbados
are of this nature. The remedies
for it should be the same as for
Erysipelas, or for the same grade
of any other cutaneous disease.

I lament that our time will
not permit me to descend more mi-
-nutely into this Subject. If you ad-
-mit the Unity of Disease, and the
Unity of Stimulus or irritation in
inducing Disease all further details
upon it will be unnecessary. I have
given you a principle, and a single
principle in medicine if ~~true~~ true,
is worth a Volume of lifeless, un-
-connected facts.

44

and afterwards ~~expect~~ ^{let} them
-elves to be bitten by poisonous snakes.
When we consider how few snakes are
poisonous, and how many wounds made
by such as are said to be so, heal of
themselves without doing any harm,
I am disposed to doubt most of the
Accounts that have been given upon ^{their}
this Subject. ~~But it~~ It is probable ~~that~~
preventives may act as exponents or
as sedatives and thus weaken the force
of the disease produced by the poison,
~~in the same manner~~, but it is not
probable they wholly destroy it. —

I have only to add that there
are certain poisons which ^{act primarily on} affect the
skin ~~only~~, and which affect the
blood vessel only by sympathy. The

V

